



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

*Ulysses S. Grant.* By OWEN WISTER. [Beacon Biographies.]  
(Boston: Small, Maynard and Co. 1900. Pp. xvii, 145.)

SOME most striking paragraphs about Grant are to be found in this pocket volume. Witness the first page:

"At the age of thirty-nine, Grant was an obscure failure in a provincial town. To him and his family, for whom he could not earn needful bread, his father had become a last shelter against the struggle for life. Not all the neighbors knew his face. At the age of forty three his picture hung in the homes of grateful millions. His name was joined with Washington's. A little while, and we see him step down, amid discordant reproach, from Washington's chair, having helplessly presided over scandal and villany blacker than the country had thus far witnessed. Next, his private integrity is darkly overcast, and the stroke kills him. But death clears his sky. At the age of sixty-three Grant died; and the people paused to mourn and honor him devotedly. All the neighbors know his face to-day." And thus, of the time following his resignation from the old army: "There came a time when he walked the streets, seeking employment. So painful was it all that those who knew him preferred to cross the street rather than meet him."

Many who watched closely at Washington throughout Grant's presidential term, and watched as unfriendly critics, will still contend that the sentence into which those eight years are condensed is quite too harsh, but it serves to call vividly to mind conditions which were a blot upon the times.

From first to last the book is incisive, and fixes attention. It deals in high praise, as well as most unsparing criticism. Throughout, it is strong in its contrasts—Grant as he was, and what, step by step, he became. The author aims at accuracy in his details, but instead of consulting the open official records has repeated many venerable myths which have been handed down through a long line of notable writers, but which for the most part had their origin in the uncertainties of information flashed through the smoke of battle. Thus, after Donelson Grant was not "put in arrest" by Halleck. Stanton authorized it, but Halleck did not do it. When Grant arrived at Chattanooga "order was nowhere." He arrived: "And forthwith order began to shape itself from formlessness." These statements are not only incorrect but libels upon a thoroughly organized and valiant army, and one that "starvation" did not turn from its purpose by so much as a hairsbreadth. Several pages are given to Gen. W. F. Smith's "scheme for the new avenue of supplies" with which Grant "was delighted." An army board of distinguished officers—Major-General Brooke president—has just decided, after exhaustive consideration of the entire record, that Rosecrans devised the plan, and Gen. Thomas ordered it executed without consulting Gen. Smith. Longstreet is represented as fighting Hooker "on Lookout Mountain" instead of in Lookout Valley when Hooker first arrived at Wauhatchie. Again, "By night Hooker was established there" (the top of the moun-

tain). No Union troops reached the top of Lookout during Hooker's battle. "As Sherman came fighting along Missionary Ridge from the left Bragg removed more troops from the centre" to oppose him. Sherman carried no part of Missionary Ridge proper, did not advance along it, and Bragg sent no troops whatever from the centre toward Sherman. On the contrary, three brigades, namely, Brown's, Cummins's and Maney's, were ordered from in front of Sherman to resist Thomas's assault in the centre.

The dozen pages towards the close of the little volume present the most graphic picture of the closing days of Lee's army yet given by any writer in such compass. The full Grant chronology is a most attractive and valuable addition to the volume. All in all it is a striking book; but the editor should have applied the test of the official records to its statements of detail.

*Historic Towns of the Southern States.* Edited by LYMAN P. POWELL, with introduction by W. P. TRENT. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1900. Pp. xxxviii, 604.)

THE book before us completes the triad of volumes on the older American Historic Towns, the former numbers of the series having dealt with the historic towns of the New England and of the Middle States respectively. In the interest of clearness of thought there ought to be a more general agreement as to what states constitute "the South;" for the expression is fast becoming as vague a one as that of "the West," and quite as ambulatory. Does the word Southern convey a geographical, a social, or a political idea? From any point of view it is surprising to find that no mention is made in this volume of San Antonio, the connecting link between Latin and Anglo-Saxon America, and a city literally teeming with historic monuments. It is scarcely less unfortunate that separate chapters have not been devoted to Alexandria and Georgetown. Just why such ancient boroughs are ignored, as dead as Jamestown though they may be, and considerable space devoted both to Frederic Town—famous only by reason of Whittier's imaginary incident—and Little Rock, where not even romance appears ever to have recorded anything peculiarly striking, are among the several diverting features of the volume. Curiously enough, moreover, of the eighteen towns described herein with varying degrees of interest, fully one-fourth are southern or northern according to one's point of view.

Professor Trent's introductory essay is by all odds the most modern and valuable portion of the book. In it he sets forth at considerable length and with great clearness the manifold economic and social conditions which hindered the growth of urban communities at the South prior to the Civil War. He also throws considerable light on the various attempts of *ante bellum* leaders to foster the growth of commerce and industries—a favorite expedient having been the convention. The greatest drawback to most of the other papers is their lack of originality. Their